

Appl. No. : Unknown
Filed : Herewith

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following heading and paragraph on page 1, line 3 of the specification:

Cross Reference to Related Application

This application claims priority to and is a U.S. National Phase of PCT International Application Number PCT/DK2004/000779, Cross Reference to Related Application, filed on November 10, 2004, designating the United States of America and published in the English language, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to Denmark Patent Application Number PA 2003 01672 filed on November 10, 2003. The disclosures of the above-described applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, lines 6-16 as follows:

The invention relates to an apparatus for dispensing of stacked objects in a predetermined dispensing direction, the dispensing apparatus comprises at least one guiding means intended for guiding the stack of objects and at least one dispensing unit intended for repetitive dispensing of at least one object at a time. The dispensing unit furthermore comprises a first supporting member and a second supporting member intended for supporting a first object and a second object, respectively, of the stacked objects, where the first object is an object being an outermost object and intended for immediate subsequent release in the predetermined dispensing direction, and where the second object is an object being an object ~~neighbouring~~ neighboring the first object and situated between the first object and the remaining stack of objects. The invention further relates to a method for dispensing of stacked objects and to a system comprising an apparatus for dispensing.

Please amend the paragraph on page 2, lines 6-10 as follows:

Construction of a suitable dispensing apparatus, which provides rapid and accurate dispensing of objects, is difficult because the apparatus must support the stack of objects while at the same time releasing the first object in the stack. To achieve higher delivery speeds and greater reliability, conventional dispensers have ~~utilised~~ utilized various mechanisms for the dispensing of the objects.

Appl. No. : **Unknown**
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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 36 through page 3, line 11 as follows:

These objects may be obtained by a dispensing apparatus comprising

- at least one guiding means intended for guiding the stack of objects and
- at least one dispensing unit intended for repetitive dispensing of at least one object at a time and said dispensing unit furthermore comprising
- mutually integrate first supporting member and second supporting member intended for supporting a first object and a second object, respectively, of the stacked objects,
- where the first object is an object being an outermost object and intended for immediate subsequent release in the predetermined dispensing direction,
- where the second object is an object being an object ~~neighbouring~~neighboring the first object and situated between the first object and the remaining stack of objects,
- said first supporting member and said second supporting member being spaced apart and exhibiting a mutual displacement in the predetermined dispensing direction,
- said mutual displacement being sufficient for the second supporting member, during operation of the apparatus, to support the second object, when the first supporting member, during operation of the apparatus, releases the first object.

Please amend the paragraph on page 6, lines 29-38 as follows:

Fig. 2 is a plane view of the embodiment seen in fig. 1 and seen from above in relation to the predetermined dispensing direction. The figure shows two pneumatic cylinders 10 and 11, which are connected to the toothed belt by a connecting element 12. The figure shows one of the pneumatic cylinders intended for activating the toothed belt and being in an extended position, while the other pneumatic cylinder is in a retracted position. The pneumatic cylinders are intended for being controlled by a suitable control unit controlling the ~~ressurizing~~pressurizing of the cylinders. The pneumatic cylinders are kept in place in relation to the second frame plate 2 by positioning brackets 13. In the embodiment shown, two pneumatic cylinders are shown. However, as the pneumatic cylinders are double-acting, it is possible to use only one pneumatic cylinder.

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, lines 8-14 as follows:

Appl. No. : Unknown
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Fig. 7a-7c ~~show~~ shows embodiments of the second supporting member 6 according to the invention. Fig. 7a is a top view of the second supporting member 6. The radius of the second supporting member may be gradually increasing such as shown along the curvature 27. The gradually increase of the radius of the second supporting member provides an easier separation from each other and/or a further separation from each other of the objects in the stack. The gradually increase of the radius may be provided together with a sharpened edge 26 as shown in fig. 6.

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, lines 24-36 as follows:

FIG. 7c shows four alternative cross-sections of the edge of the second supporting member for lifting and/or for supporting the edge 25a. The cross-sectional views may be taken from the area indicated in the top view at 26 in a radial direction. The edge 25a may have wedge-shaped cross-sections. The cross-section 31 has a protrusion on top of the supporting member, said protrusion providing a separation of the objects. The cross-section 32 indicates an edge of the supporting member being provided with an element of a flexible material such as a tongue or sheet of metal, plastic or rubber. Providing the edge with flexible metal, plastic or rubber may increase the possibility of the system separating objects exhibiting a so-called negative overlay along the edges of the objects. Any of the described means may be used as the only means for providing a supporting or lifting means of the object, but may also be used in a combination with two or more of the ways of lifting and/or supporting the objects being described with reference to one or more of the other figures.